

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0561

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: SECDEF STATEMENTS ON MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE

REF: (A) VIENNA 0403

(B) VIENNA 0452

1. IN RECENT EAST/WEST BILATERAL MEETINGS (REFS A AND B) SOVIET REPS HAVE CITED SECDEF STATEMENTS ON THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE TO SUPPORT EASTERN VIEW A) THAT CURRENT EAST-WEST RELATIONSHIP OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE HAS MAINTAINED THE PEACE AND IS THE BASIS ON WHICH REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE CALCULATED AND B) THAT ALL FORCE COMPONENTS -- AIR AS WELL AS GROUND -- SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.
 2. IN 17 JANUARY PRESS CONFERENCE (VIENNA 0494, PARA 3) THE CZECH REPRESENTATIVE ALLUDED TO 7 JANUARY REMARKS MADE BY SECDEF ACCORDING TO WHICH THE MAN-POWER ADVANTAGES OF THE WARSAW PACT HAVE BEEN OFFSET
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BY OTHER COMPENSATING FACTORS SO THAT AN

EQUILIBRIUM OF FORCES EXISTS IN EUROPE. THE CZECH REP ALSO ASSERTED THAT RECENT STATEMENTS OF FRG MOD LEBER AND DEPSECSTATE RUSH MAKE THE SAME POINT. CONSEQUENTLY, HE SAID, THE WESTERN MBFR NEGOTIATING POSITION WITH ITS EMPHASIS ON DISPARITIES BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT FORCES DOES NOT CORRESPOND TO THE PERCEPTION OF THE EUROPEAN MILITARY BALANCE WHICH IS HELD IN NATO NATIONAL CAPITALS.

3. USDEL MBFR WOULD APPRECIATE IF THESE ISSUES COULD BE KEPT IN MIND IN PREPARATION OF FUTURE STATEMENTS BY SECDEF AND OTHER SENIOR WASHINGTON OFFICIALS ON THE MILITARY BALANCE IN EUROPE. IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL FOR THE WESTERN POSITION IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FOR US TO HAVE AVAILABLE A SECDEF STATEMENT WHICH ELABORATED ON THE NATURE OF THE DISPARITIES WHICH EXIST IN CENTRAL EUROPE.HUMES

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